

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 180

WHEREAS, Residents of Chambers County are gathering at the State Capitol on February 11, 2009, to celebrate their unique region of Texas and to discuss the challenges they face after Hurricane Ike; and

WHEREAS, Situated on the plains of the Gulf Coast, Chambers County was first settled by several Indian tribes and by people from Spain, France, and Mexico; the county was created in 1858 from portions of Liberty and Jefferson Counties, and it was named for T. J. Chambers, a chief justice of the Supreme Court of Coahuila and Texas; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, the diverse economy of Chambers County has included agriculture, fish and oyster processing, and the petroleum industry, and the region's abundant natural resources have drawn visitors from across the state for the ample opportunities for birding, hunting, and fishing in the county's coastal marshlands; and

WHEREAS, Today, however, the people of Chambers County are facing the difficult job of cleaning up after Hurricane Ike, which struck on September 13, 2008; a number of people lost their lives, and homes and businesses were destroyed or severely damaged; two of the county's treasured habitats, the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge and the Candy Cain Abshier Wildlife Management Area, were hit hard as well; the popular Texas Gatorfest in Anahuac and the Texas Rice Festival in Winnie were canceled; and

WHEREAS, In spite of these setbacks, the people of Chambers County are working with grit and determination to restore their way of life; businesses have begun to reopen, and three months to the day after the landfall of the hurricane, portions of the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge were opened again to the public; plans for the 2009 Gatorfest and the Rice Festival are well under way; and

WHEREAS, The hardy spirit of the people of Chambers County remains strong, and with the help of their fellow Texans, they are working dauntlessly to rebuild their communities, earning the respect of all for their courage and fortitude; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, hereby recognize February 11, 2009, as Chambers County Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best wishes for a meaningful and productive visit to Austin.

Williams, Huffman

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 11, 2009.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate